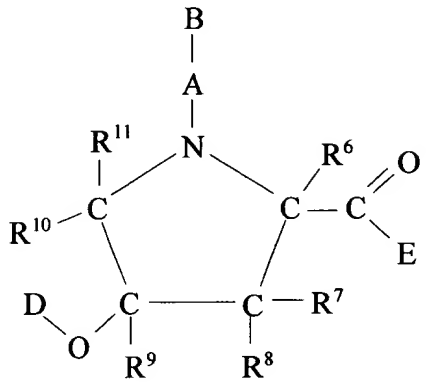
AMENDMENT

In the claims

Please amend claims 108-111 as follows:

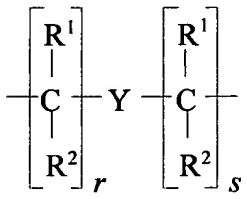
1-96. (canceled)

97. (withdrawn) A compound comprising the structure:

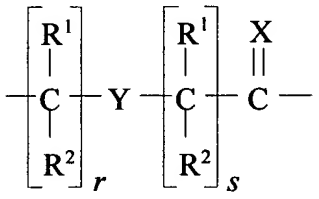


wherein B is H, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, or a reporter group, wherein amino groups are, optionally, protected by amino protecting groups;

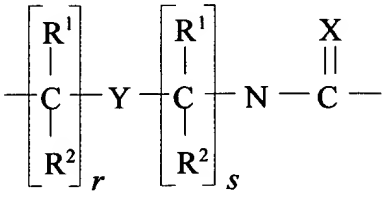
wherein A is a group of formula (Ia), (Ib), or (Ic);



I(a)



I(b)



I(c)

wherein *r* and *s* are, for I(a) and I(b), independently of one another, values from 0 to 5 and are, for I(c), independently of one another, values from 1 to 5;
wherein each R^1 and each R^2 is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, or halogen;

wherein each of R^3, R^4, and R^5, is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

Y is a single bond, O, S, or NR^4; and

X is O, S, Se, NR^5, CH_2, or $C(CH_3)_2$;

wherein R^6 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

wherein R^7 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or halogen, and R^8 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or heteroaryl;
or R^7 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, aralkyl, or heteroaryl, and R^8 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or halogen;

wherein R^9 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, arylkyl, or heteroaryl;

wherein each of R^{10} and R^{11} is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

wherein D is a protecting group compatible with the conditions of ester, amide, or phosphonoester bond formation, R^{18}, or $NR^{18}R^{19}$;

wherein E is O^-, OCH_3, a protecting or activating group compatible with ester, phosphoester, or phosphonoester bond formation, R^{20}, $NR^{20}R^{21}$, or OR^{20}; and

wherein each R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}, and R^{21} is, independently, hydrogen, (C1-C6)alkyl, an amino protecting group, a reporter group, an intercalator, a chelator, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a lipid, a steroid, a nucleotide or oligonucleotide, or a soluble or nonsoluble polymer.

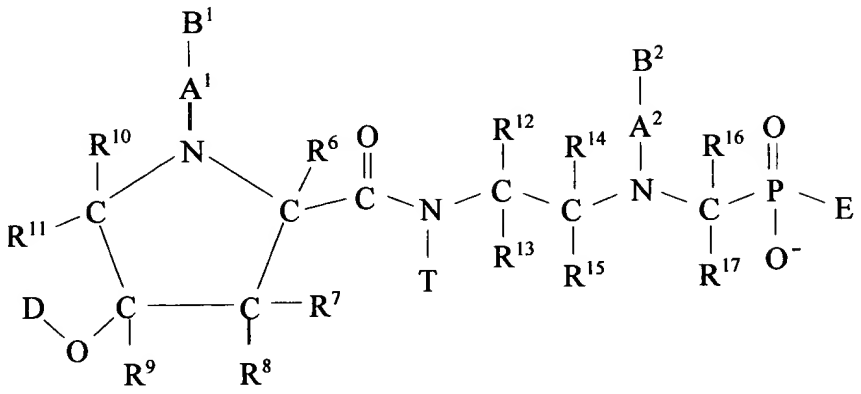
98. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 97, wherein D is a protecting group selected from the group consisting of DMTr, MMTr, Tr, TBDMS, or tetraydropyranyl.

99. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 97, wherein E is O^-, OH, or OCH_3.

100. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 97, wherein B is a nucleobase.

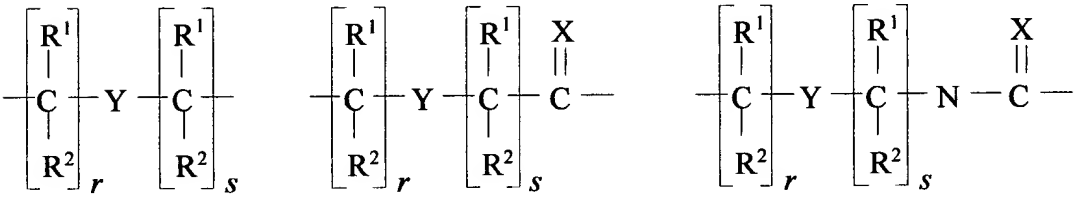
101. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 100, wherein B is a naturally-occurring nucleobase.

102. (withdrawn) A compound comprising the structure:



wherein each of B^1 and B^2 is, independently, H, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, or a reporter group, wherein amino groups are, optionally, protected by amino protecting groups;

wherein each of A^1 and A^2 is, independently, a group of formula (Ia), (Ib), or (Ic);



I(a) I(b) I(c)

wherein *r* and *s* are, for I(a) and I(b), independently of one another, values from 0 to 5 and are, for I(c), independently of one another, values from 1 to 5;

wherein each R^1 and each R^2 is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1

$-C_6$)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, or halogen;
wherein each R^3, R^4, and R^5, is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

Y is a single bond, O, S, or NR^4; and

X is O, S, Se, NR^5, CH_2, or $C(CH_3)_2$;

wherein R^6 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

wherein R^7 is, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or hydrogen, and R^8 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or heteroaryl;
or R^7 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or heteroaryl, and R^8 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or halogen;

wherein R^9 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, arylkyl, or heteroaryl;

wherein each of R^{10} and R^{11} is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;
wherein each of R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, and R^{17} is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted

(C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

wherein D is a protecting group compatible with the conditions of ester, amide, or phosphonoester bond formation, R^{18}, or $NR^{18}R^{19}$;

wherein E is O^-, a protecting or activating group compatible with ester, phosphoester, or phosphonoester bond formation, R^{20}, $NR^{20}R^{21}$, or OR^{20};

wherein T is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain; and

wherein each R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}, and R^{21} is, independently, hydrogen, (C1-C6)alkyl, an amino protecting group, a reporter group, an intercalator, a chelator, a linker, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a lipid, a steroid, a nucleotide or oligonucleotide, or a soluble or nonsoluble polymer.

103. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 102, wherein D is a protecting group selected from the group consisting of DMTr, MMTr, Tr, TMDMS, or tetrahydropyranyl.

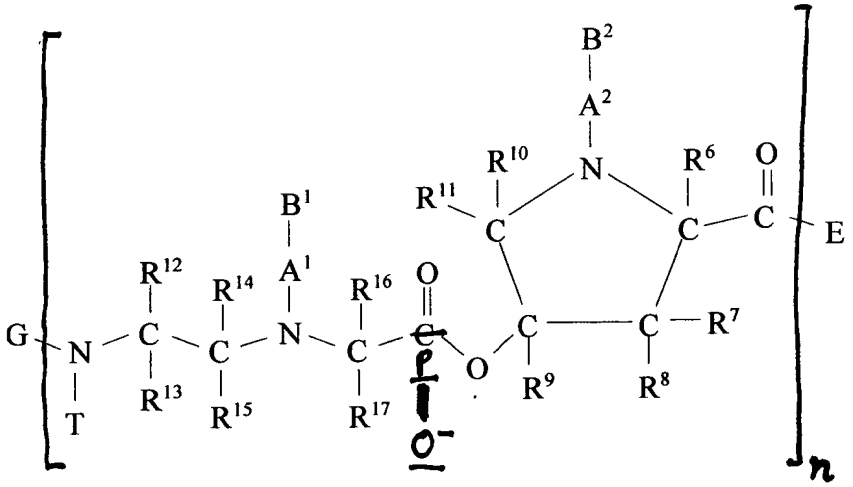
104. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 102, wherein E is O^-, OH, 1-oxydo-4-methoxy-2-picolyloxy, phenoxy, 2-methylphenoxy, or 2-cyanoethoxy.

105. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 102, wherein T is hydrogen.

106. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 102, wherein at least one of B^1 and B^2 is a nucleobase.

107. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 106, wherein at least one of B^1 and B^2 is a naturally-occurring nucleobase.

108. (currently amended) A compound comprising the structure:



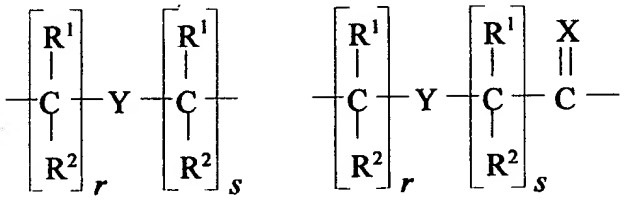
wherein G is selected from a group consisting of H and is a protecting group;

wherein E is selected from a group consisting of O-, OH, a protecting group, and an activating group;

wherein B^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, a naturally occurring nucleobase, and a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, ~~an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a heterocyclic moiety, and a reporter group,~~ wherein amino groups, if present, are, optionally, protected by amino protecting groups;

wherein B^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, a naturally occurring nucleobase, and a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, ~~an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a heterocyclic moiety, and a reporter group~~ wherein amino groups, if present, are, optionally, protected by amino protecting groups;

wherein each A^1 and each A^2 is, independently, is a group of formula (Ia) or (Ib);



I(a) I(b)

wherein *r* and *s* are, for I(a) and I(b), independently of one another, values from 0 to 5;

wherein each R^1 and each R^2 is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, or halogen;

wherein each R^4 and each R^5, is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

Y is a single bond, O, S, or NR^4; and

X is O, S, Se, NR^5, CH_2, or $C(CH_3)_2$;

wherein each R^6 is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

wherein R^7 is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or hydrogen, and R^8 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-,

alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or heteroaryl; or R^7 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or heteroaryl, and R^8 is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or halogen;
wherein each R^9 is independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, arylkyl, or heteroaryl;

wherein each R^{10} and each R^{11} is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

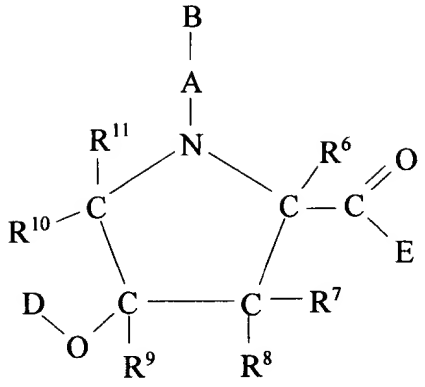
wherein each R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, and each R^{17} is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

wherein T is hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain; and

n is 1 or greater,
and salts thereof.

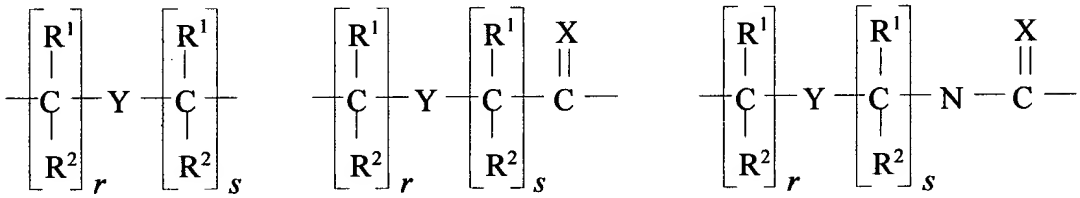
109. (previously presented) The compound of claim 108, wherein *n* is 2 or greater.

110. (currently amended) The compound of claim 109, wherein said compound further comprises ~~the~~ a compound selected from the group consisting of a phosphono peptide nucleic acid monomer and a compound comprising the structure:



wherein B is selected from the group consisting of H, a naturally occurring nucleobase, and a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, ~~an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a heterocyclic moiety, and a reporter group,~~ wherein amino groups are, optionally, protected by amino protecting groups;

wherein A is a group of formula (Ia), (Ib), or (Ic);



I(a) I(b) I(c)

wherein *r* and *s* are, for I(a) and I(b), independently of one another, values from 0 to 5 and are, for I(c), independently of one another, values from 1 to 5;

wherein each R^1 and each R^2 is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, or halogen;

wherein each of R^3, R^4, and R^5, is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted (C_1 –C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

Y is a single bond, O, S, or NR^4; and

X is O, S, Se, NR^5, CH_2, or $C(CH_3)_2$;

wherein R^6 is hydrogen, $(C_1 –C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted $(C_1 –C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

wherein R^7 is hydrogen, $(C_1 –C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted $(C_1 –C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or halogen, and R^8 is hydrogen, $(C_1 –C_6)$ alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted $(C_1 –C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or heteroaryl; or R^7 is hydrogen, $(C_1 –C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted $(C_1 –C_6)$alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, aralkyl, or heteroaryl, and R^8 is hydrogen, $(C_1 –C_6$)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted $(C_1 –C_6$)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or halogen;

wherein R^9 is hydrogen, $(C_1 –C_6$)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted $(C_1 –C_6$)alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, arylkyl, or heteroaryl;

wherein each of R^{10} and R^{11} is, independently, hydrogen, $(C_1 –C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, or alkythio-substituted $(C_1 –C_6$)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or an amino acid side chain;

wherein D is a protecting group compatible with the conditions of ester, amide, or phosphonoester bond formation, R^{18}, or $NR^{18}R^{19}$;

wherein E is O^-, OCH_3, a protecting or activating group compatible with ester, phosphoester, or phosphonoester bond formation, R^{20}, $NR^{20}R^{21}$, or OR^{20}; and

wherein each R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}, and R^{21} is, independently, selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C1-C6)alkyl, an amino protecting group, a reporter group, an intercalator, a chelator, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a lipid, a steroid, a nucleotide or oligonucleotide, and a soluble or nonsoluble polymer.

111. (previously presented) The compound of claim 110, wherein the compound comprises phosphono peptide nucleic acid monomer subunits and subunits having the structure presented in claim 110 in a ratio of between about 3:5 to about 15:1.

112. (previously presented) The compound of claim 108, wherein at least one B^1 or at least one B^2 is a nucleobase.

113. (previously presented) The compound of claim 112, wherein at least one B^1 or at least one B^2 is a naturally-occurring nucleobase.

114. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 108 hybridized to a nucleic acid molecule.

115. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 109 hybridized to a nucleic acid molecule.

116. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 108 bound to a solid support.

117. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 109 bound to a solid support.

118. (withdrawn) A method for detecting a nucleic acid molecule, comprising:

providing a sample;

contacting the oligonucleotide analogue of claim 108 with said sample under conditions that allow hybridization of nucleic acid molecules with oligonucleotide analogues; and

detecting at least one nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to said

oligonucleotide analogue.

119. (withdrawn) The method of claim 118, wherein said oligonucleotide analogue of claim 108 is bound to a solid support.

120. (withdrawn) The method of claim 118, wherein said sample comprises DNA.

121. (withdrawn) The method of claim 118 wherein said detecting utilizes one or more fluorescent labels.

122. (withdrawn) A method for separating, isolating, or purifying at least one nucleic acid molecule from a population of nucleic acid molecules, comprising:

providing a population of nucleic acid molecules;

contacting the population of nucleic acid molecules with one or more capture probes comprising at least one oligonucleotide analogue of claim 12 under conditions that allow hybridization of nucleic acid molecules with oligonucleotide analogues; and

separating at least one nucleic acid molecule that is hybridized to said one or more capture probes from the members of the population of nucleic acid molecules that are not hybridized to said one or more capture probes.

123. (withdrawn) The method of claim 122, wherein said population of nucleic acid molecules comprises RNA.

124. (withdrawn) The method of claim 122, wherein said one or more capture probes further comprises a specific binding member.

125. (withdrawn) The method of claim 122, wherein at least one of said one or more capture probes is a clamping oligoucleotide analogue.

126. (withdrawn) The method of claim 122, wherein said one or more capture probes is bound to a solid support.

127. (withdrawn) A method for performing homologous recombination, comprising

providing a construct that comprises an oligonucleotide analogue;

introducing said construct into one or more cells;

allowing homologous recombination between said construct and the genome of said one or more cells to occur.

128. (withdrawn) The method of claim 127, wherein said construct comprises a peptide nucleic acid, a phosphono peptide nucleic acid, a peptide nucleic acid - phosphono peptide nucleic acid, a hydroxyproline nucleic acid, a serine nucleic acid, a hydroxyproline nucleic acid- peptide nucleic acid , hydroxyproline nucleic acid - phosphono peptide nucleic acid, a serine nucleic acid- peptide nucleic acid , or a serine nucleic acid - phosphono peptide nucleic acid.

129. (withdrawn) The method of claim 128, wherein said construct further comprises DNA.